

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 4 14, characterized in that a liquid or gaseous measurement mixture with a wherein said controlling step includes maintaining a constant fuel concentration of less than 0.1% by volume depending on the quantity of the fuel which has permeated the into the measurement chamber (16) from the fuel mixture per unit time is produced in the measurement chamber (16) mixture.
3. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 4 14, characterized in that a liquid or gaseous measurement mixture with a wherein said controlling step includes maintaining a constant fuel concentration of more than 10% by volume depending on the quantity of the fuel which has permeated the into the measurement chamber (16) from the fuel mixture per unit time is produced in the measurement chamber (16) mixture.
4. (Currently amended) Method according to one of the preceding claims Claim 14, characterized in that to produce the measurement mixture in including the step of providing a carrier fluid in the measurement chamber (16) a carrier liquid or a carrier gas is used to dilute and/or remove the permeated fuel, thereby diluting the portion of the fuel mixture permeated into the measurement chamber.
5. (Currently amended) Method according to one of the preceding claims Claim 14, characterized in that wherein the fuel concentration of in the measurement mixture, in the case of values above 10 or is greater than 5% by volume, and is determined by means of a liquid sensor.
6. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 5, characterized in that the fuel concentration wherein said determining step includes measuring a physical property of the measurement mixture is determined by means of density or viscosity measurements selected from the group consisting of density, viscosity, an optical characteristic, infrared adsorption, or a combination of said properties.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 14, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the fuel concentration of ~~in~~ the measurement mixture, ~~in the case~~ of values ~~below~~ is less than 1.0% or 0.1% by volume, ~~and~~ is determined by means of a gas sensor.

10. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 9, characterized in that the fuel concentration ~~wherein said determining step includes measuring a physical property of the measurement mixture is determined by means of optical methods or by determining conductivity selected from the group consisting of an optical property, conductivity, infrared absorption or a combination of said properties.~~

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) Fuel cell system according to Claim 12 ~~18~~, characterized in that a gas, liquid, ~~wherein said sensor measures a physical property related to the fuel concentration in said measurement chamber, said physical property being selected from the group consisting of infrared absorption, density measurement, viscosity, an optical property or conductivity measurement sensor is provided as the sensor (17).~~

14. (New) Method for regulating the fuel concentration in a fuel mixture for a fuel cell, the fuel mixture consisting of an alcohol or an ether as the fuel and water, comprising the steps of
feeding the fuel via a controllable fuel inlet to a mixing space;
forming a fuel mixture within the mixing space;
providing a measurement probe comprising a measurement chamber and a membrane that delimits the measurement chamber and is selectively permeable to water and the fuel in the fuel mixture;

positioning said selectively permeable membrane downstream of the fuel inlet relative to the direction of flow of the fuel mixture, so that the selectively permeable membrane is in contact with the fuel mixture;

permeating a portion of the fuel mixture through the selectively permeable membrane into the measurement chamber thereby forming a measurement mixture within the measurement chamber, the rate at which the fuel permeates into the measurement chamber being related to the composition of the fuel mixture;

determining the concentration of the fuel in the measurement mixture; and controlling the flow rate of the fuel at said fuel inlet as a function of the fuel concentration in the measurement mixture.

15. (New) Method according to Claim 1, including the step of selecting said permeable membrane so that the concentration of the fuel in the portion of the fuel mixture permeating said permeable membrane is greater than the concentration of the fuel in the fuel mixture.

16. (New) Method according to Claim 14, including the step of selecting said permeable membrane so that the concentration of the fuel in the portion of the fuel mixture permeating said permeable membrane is less than the concentration of the fuel in the fuel mixture.

17. (New) Method according to Claim 14, including the step of passing a carrier fluid through the measurement chamber, thereby conveying the portion of the fuel mixture out of the measurement chamber.

18. (New) Fuel cell system, having a fuel cell which can be operated with a fuel mixture consisting of an alcohol or an ether as fuel and water and a mixing space, said mixing space having a controllable fuel inlet positioned upstream of the fuel cell relative to the direction of flow of the fuel mixture and being connected to the fuel cell by a fuel-mixture feedline, said

fuel cell system comprising a measurement probe associated with the mixing space, said measurement probe including

a measurement chamber;

a membrane that delimits the measurement chamber and is selectively permeable to water and the fuel in the fuel mixture, said selectively permeable membrane being positioned downstream of the fuel inlet relative to the direction of flow of the fuel mixture such that a quantity of fuel related to the concentration of fuel in the fuel mixture permeates through said membrane into said measurement chamber per unit time; and

a sensor for determining the fuel concentration in the measurement chamber, said fuel cell system further comprising means for controlling the fuel inlet as a function of the fuel concentration in the measurement chamber.